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SECTOR 5 — CHART INFORMATION

SECTOR 5

NORTHWEST COAST OF IRELAND

Plan.—This sector describes the NW coast of Ireland between Achill Head and Malin Head and also includes Sligo Bay, Donegal Bay, and Lough Swilly. The descriptive sequence is from S to N.

General Remarks

5.1 The coast between Achill Head and Malin Head, 139 miles NE, is indented by numerous exposed bays and backed, in the interior, by high mountain ranges. Several of the peaks within these ranges are conspicuous and, under favorable conditions, are visible for a considerable distance offshore. The most conspicuous of these peaks rise along the S and N sides of Donegal Bay and SE of Bloody Foreland, the NW extremity of Ireland.

Partially protected anchorage is available for small vessels within most of the bays and inlets along the coast, but the majority of anchorage roadsteads are open to the prevailing winds and sea and are obstructed in the approaches by rocks, shoals, and other dangers.

Lough Swilly, a narrow and spacious inlet, provides sheltered anchorage for a large number of vessels of all classes and is accessible at all stages of the tide. It is the principal harbor of refuge for vessels rounding the N coast of Ireland.

Sligo Harbor, lying at the E end of Sligo Bay and on the S side of the approach to Donegal Bay, is the only harbor where vessels of moderate draft can be accommodated alongside. The berthing facilities at the other ports along the coast are available only to small coastal vessels and fishing craft.

The bays are separated by bold, high, and cliffy headlands and backed by lofty mountain ranges which extend well inland. Knocknarea, rising on the S side of Sligo Harbor; Truskmore, Truskbeg, and Dartry rising on the S side of Donegal Bay; and Slieve League, rising 4.5 miles SE of Malinmore Head, are the most conspicuous peaks within these ranges.

In clear weather, several of the peaks of the high mountain ranges, which rise in the deep interior, are visible for a considerable distance offshore. Mount Errigal, rising 31 miles NE of Malinmore Head, and Mount Muckish, rising 6 miles farther NE, are the highest and most prominent of these peaks.

Tides—Currents.—Between Eagle Island and Rathlin O'Birne Island, weak currents set NE and SW across the entrance of Donegal Bay. Between Rathlin O'Birne Island and Aran Island, the offshore tidal currents set in the general direction of the coast and attain rates of 0.8 knot at springs. Nearer the land, these currents attain rates of 1.5 to 2 knots at springs. Within Tory Sound, the tidal currents attain rates of 2 knots at springs. Between Tory Island and Malin Head, the tidal currents set in the direction of the coast and usually attain rates of 2 knots at springs. Rates of 3 knots have been experienced off the latter headland at springs.

Caution.—The depths off this part of the coast do not give vessels sufficient warning of the approach to danger in thick weather as there are considerable depths close to shore.

Oil platforms and exploration vessels may be encountered off the W coast of Ireland.

Achill Head to Donegal Bay

5.2 Achill Head (53°58'N., 10°15'W.), the W extremity of Achill Island, is fully described in Sector 4.

Black Rock (54°04'N., 10°19'W.), lying 6 miles NNW of Achill Head, is 82m high and the largest of a small group of rocks which lies in the W approaches to Blacksod Bay. A main light is shown from a tower, 15m high, standing on this rock.

Blacksod Bay (54°05'N., 10°00'W.) lies 12 miles NE of Achill Head and is protected on its W side by the Mullet Peninsula. This bay is one of the finest along the W coast of Ireland. It is easy of access and provides secure anchorage for a large number of vessels.

The approach to the bay lies between Saddle Head, located NE of Achill Head, and Duvillaun More, 3.2 miles N, and is deep and clear. The tidal currents set N and S across the approach to this bay at rates of 1 to 1.5 knots.

Duvillaun More (54°04'N., 10°11'W.), 58m high, is the largest of the Duvillaun Islands. This group of islands is fronted by rocks and foul ground and extends up to 2.8 miles SW of Surgeview Point, the SW extremity of the Mullet Peninsula.

Blacksod Point (54°06'N., 10°04'W.), the W entrance point of the bay, is marked by a light which is shown from a structure, 12m high, standing near the root of a small pier. Termon Hill, 101m high, rises 1.2 miles WNW of the point and is prominent. A radio mast stands 1.5 miles NNW of this hill. Foul ground extends about 0.3 mile E from the point and is marked by a lighted buoy.

Blacksod Quay extends from the shore 0.3 mile WNW of Blacksod Point. Small vessels can anchor, in a depth of 4.5m, within a small bight lying N of the quay. The E side of the bay is fronted by shallow depths and foul ground and, for the most part, should not be approached within 0.7 mile by large vessels. Doobeg Point, located 0.8 mile NNW of Blacksod Point, is fronted by a drying shoal which extends about 0.5 mile E and is marked by a beacon. Elly Bay lies on the W side of Blacksod Bay and is entered 3.5 miles N of Blacksod Point.

The recommended anchorage for large vessels lies in depths of 10 to 13m, sand over clay, between 1.5 and 2.5 miles NE of Blacksod Point.

Elly Bay provides good and sheltered anchorage for small vessels with shallow drafts over a bottom of sand on stiff clay. Vessels with drafts of less than 6m may obtain good anchorage to the E of Elly Bay and as close to the entrance as their draft will allow. There is excellent anchorage for vessels of shallow draft in Elly Bay.

Caution.—With W winds, a heavy swell usually sets through the entrance of Blacksod Bay and breaks, during heavy weather, on the shoals fronting Duvillaun More. With S

winds, the entrance is subject to heavy squalls which sweep down from the mountains standing on Achill Island.

The sea level within Blacksod Bay may be raised up to 0.4m by SW winds and correspondingly lowered by N winds.

Bulls Mouth (54°02'N., 9°56'W.) is approached 6 miles SE of Blacksod Point and forms the N entrance, which is used by small craft, to Achill Sound. The navigable entrance channel narrows to a width of only 130m and has a depth of 11m in the fairway. Above Dooniver Point, located 2 miles S of the entrance, the depths gradually decrease to 2m. The tidal currents within the channel attain rates of about 5 knots at springs, but they increase to 8 knots in some parts. Local knowledge is recommended.

5.3 Erris Head (54°18'N., 10°00'W.), a cliffy islet fronted by rocks, is 52m high and lies 13.5 miles NNE of Surgeview Point. The coast between forms the W side of the Mullet Peninsula and is composed of sandhills. It is fronted by numerous small islets, rocks, and patches of foul ground. An inner passage leads between these dangers and the coast, but is only navigable by small vessels with local knowledge.

A prominent ruined tower stands 0.7 mile N of Surgeview Point.

Pigeon Islet, a conical and prominent rock, lies at the outer end of a chain of rocks which extends up to 0.3 mile W of Erris Head.

Inishkea Islands (54°08'N., 10°12'W.), centered 5 miles NE of Black Rock, consist of two large islands which are separated by a narrow boat channel and fronted by rocks and foul ground. The S island is 66m high and is marked by a beacon and a flagstaff. Foul ground extends up to 0.5 mile S from the S end of this island. The N island is 22m high and above-water rocks and foul ground extend up to 1.2 miles N of its N end.

Usborne Shoal, with a least depth of 2.1m, lies about 1.9 miles N of the N end of the N island and is usually marked by breakers.

Portnafrankagh (French Port) (54°14'N., 10°06'W.), a small inlet, lies 5.2 miles SW of Erris Head and is entered between Annagh Head and Port Point, 0.4 mile NE. It provides sheltered anchorage to vessels with drafts of less than 4m and is often frequented by small craft.

5.4 Eagle Island (54°17'N., 10°05'W.) lies 0.8 mile offshore, 3.5 miles WSW of Erris Head. The island is 58m high and steep-to on its W side. A main light is shown from a prominent tower, 11m high, standing on the W extremity of the island. Two conspicuous radio masts stand near the tower.

Off the W coast of the peninsula, the flood current sets NE and the ebb sets SW. These currents are weak in the central part of the area, but attain rates of up to 2.5 knots at springs off the salient points and within the narrower channels. Eddies frequently form along the coast between Erris Head and Eagle Island during the ebb current. Rips or overfalls occur NNE and ENE of Eagle Island and a race occurs off Erris Head where the eddies meet the ebb.

5.5 Broad Haven Bay (54°17'N., 9°54'W.) is entered between Erris Head and Kid Island, 4.8 miles ENE. It affords a safe clear approach to the small and natural harbor of Broad

Haven which lies on the S side. The N part of the W side of the bay is formed by cliffs, up to 99m high in places.

Broad Haven, the harbor, is entered between Gubacashel, which is marked by a light, and Brandy Point, 0.7 mile ENE. It is a sheltered harbor of refuge with moderate holding ground for small vessels. The best anchorage lies, in depths of 7 to 9m, in the middle of the fairway about 0.4 mile SE of Gubacashel.

5.6 Benwee Head (54°20'N., 9°49'W.), located 1.7 miles ENE of Kid Island, is bordered by cliffs, up to 254m high in places, and fronted by several rocks.

The Stags (54°22'N., 9°47'W.), a group of four rocky islets, lies 2 miles NE of Benwee Head. These rocks are steep-to and the tallest is 92m high. A deep and clear channel, about 1 mile wide, leads between this group and the mainland.

Downpatrick Head (54°20'N., 9°21'W.), fronted to the N by Doonbristy Islet, is located 16.5 miles E of Benwee Head. When viewed from the E or W, this head has a wedge-like appearance with its base to seaward. The coast between Benwee Head and Downpatrick Head consists of a series of bold cliffs which rise, in places, to heights of over 250m. The shore is fronted by several conspicuous tall pinnacle rocks which lie up to 0.3 mile seaward.

Mount Glinsk, 301m high, stands within 0.5 mile of the coast, 7 miles E of Benwee Head. Mount Nephin, 802m high, stands 25 miles SE of Benwee Head. Both of these peaks are prominent from seaward.

Creevagh Head, a low and rocky cliff, is located 3 miles ESE of Downpatrick Head. The land to the SW of this point gradually rises to a height of 182m. An obelisk, known as Gazebo Tower, stands 2 miles S of the point and is prominent. A ruined tower is situated on the same slope, 0.6 mile S of the point, and is often mistaken for the obelisk.

5.7 Killala Bay (54°16'N., 9°08'W.) is entered between Kilcummin Head, located 5.2 miles SE of Downpatrick Head, and Lenadoon Point, 5.5 miles E. This bay affords shelter from onshore winds, but is entirely open to the N. The shores are low and are fronted by foul ground.

Rathlee Tower, a conspicuous ruin, stands 1 mile SSE of Lenadoon Point and the prominent spire of Kilglass church is situated 3 miles SSW of it. The conspicuous tower of Inishcrone church, which is surmounted by a large cross, stands 1.5 miles SW of Kilglass church.

The village of Killala is situated in the SW corner of the bay and is fronted by a small quay. The town of Ballina is situated 5 miles inland on the River Moy which flows into the head of the bay. A quay fronts the E side of this river, 1.2 miles below the town. Sand bars, with least depths of 0.6m, obstruct the approaches to these quays, but both can be used by small coasters at HW. The tidal currents are weak in the entrance of the bay, but attain rates of 3 to 4 knots over the bars at springs. Local pilots are available from Inishcrone, a village fronted by a small pier, which is situated in the SE corner of the bay.

5.8 Sligo Bay (54°18'N., 8°45'W.) is entered between Lenadoon Point and Ballyconnell Point, 14 miles ENE. Ballysadare Bay, Sligo Harbor, and Drumcliff Bay are three

shallow inlets, which indent the SE side of this bay, and Dromore Bay indents the W side.

The S side of Sligo Bay is mostly low and rocky, but rises in the interior to high, rugged, and bold mountain peaks. Knockalongy, 539m high, rises 5 miles inland, 11.7 miles SE of Lenadoon Point. It is the highest peak in the area and very prominent from seaward. Knocknarea, a very remarkable and solitary limestone mountain, is 326m high and rises 7.2 miles SE of Ballyconnell Point on the peninsula which separates Ballysadare Bay from Sligo Harbor. Its flat summit is surmounted by a cairn and the N and W sides are formed by precipitous escarpments.

The mountain ranges of Slievemore and Keeloges stand 8 and 14 miles E, respectively, of Ballyconnell Point and may be easily identified from seaward.

Black Rock (54°18'N., 8°37'W.) lies on the S side of the approach to Sligo Harbor, 4.7 miles SE of Ballyconnell Point. A light is shown from a prominent tower, 25m high, standing on the summit of this drying rock. The E side of Black Rock is connected to the N extremity of Coney Island by a narrow ridge of boulders and gravel known as The Cluckhorn. Foul ground fronts the W side of Black Rock.

Ballysadare Bay lies in the SE part of Sligo Bay and is entered between Derkmore Point, located 5.5 miles S of Ballyconnell Point, and Killaspug Point, 2 miles ENE. It is encumbered with sand banks and the narrow channels leading between them can only be used by small craft with local knowledge at HW.

Drumcliff Bay lies in the NE part of Sligo Bay and is entered between Raghly Point, located 2.4 miles SSE of Ballyconnell Point, and Lower Rosses Point, 2.5 miles E. It is encumbered by sandbanks, almost entirely silted up, and only used by very shallow craft with local knowledge.

5.9 Dromore Bay (54°16'N., 8°50'W.) is entered between Carrownabinna Point, located 5.2 miles E of Lenadoon Point, and Aughris Head, 5.3 miles E. Both of these entrance points are high and cliffy. A prominent ruined tower stands 1.8 miles SE of Carrownabinna Point.

The shores of the bay are fronted by foul ground except at the E side. Anchorage can be taken, during offshore winds, on a sandy bank which fronts the E shore. A good berth lies in a depth of 11m, fine sand, WSW of Aughris Head and about 0.3 mile offshore.

Ballyconnell Point (54°22'N., 8°40'W.), the N entrance point of Sligo Bay, is the NW extremity of a wide peninsula which separates Sligo Bay from Donegal Bay. Roskeeragh Point is located 1 mile S of Ballyconnell Point and is surmounted by the ruins of a castle. A ruined tower stands near the summit of a high and solitary hill which rises close E of the castle.

Raghly Point, located 2.4 miles SSE of Ballyconnell Point, is formed by a small peninsula which is joined to the mainland N by a shingle ridge.

Brown Bay lies on the N side of the approach to Sligo Harbour and is entered between Seal Rocks and Raghly Point, 1.2 miles ESE. It provides temporary anchorage, in a depth of 12m, sand, for vessels waiting to enter the harbor.

5.10 The Ledge (54°18'N., 8°43'W.), with a least depth of 8.5m, lies SW of Raghly Point. Vessels can pass to the N or S of this rocky shoal over which the sea breaks heavily during bad weather.

Ardboline Island, 15m high, lies 1.1 miles SW of Ballyconnell Point, and is fringed with reefs. Passage Rocks, which dry, lie 0.3 mile NE of the island.

Seal Rocks, a group of drying rocks, lies centered 0.7 mile SE of Ardboline Island and a shoal patch, with a least depth of 9.3m, lies about 0.7 mile S of it.

Wheat Rock, which dries, lies near the outer edge of the foul ground which extends S for about 0.5 mile from Raghly Point. A lighted buoy is moored about 0.2 mile S of this rock. Raghly Ledge, awash, is the extremity of a steep-to spit which extends up to about 0.3 mile SE from the S extremity of Raghly Point.

Blind Rock, with a least depth of 2.7m, lies about 0.7 mile S of Black Rock and breaks with a heavy sea.

5.11 Sligo Harbor (54°16'N., 8°28'W.) (World Port Index No. 33950) is an extensive inlet, most of which dries, entered between the NE side of Coney Island and Deadman's Point, 0.3 mile NE. A narrow channel leads E and SE through the inlet to the facilities fronting the town of Sligo at the head.

Tides—Currents.—The tides rise about 4.1m at springs and 3m at neaps.

The flood current at springs attains rates of about 3 knots off Deadman's Point, 5 to 6 knots at places within the channel, and 4 to 5 knots off Sligo. The ebb attains rates of 4 to 5 knots off Sligo, 5 to 6 knots at places within the channel, and about 2 knots at the entrance. With strong and prolonged W winds, the rate of the flood current is increased and the ebb current correspondingly reduced.

Depths—Limitations.—Five main quays are situated on the SW side of the river at the head of the inlet and have dredged depths up to 3m alongside. The controlling depth in the channel was reported (1985) to be 2.2m. From the lower berth to the upper berth, a controlling depth of 1.8m was reported. Vessels lie aground on soft mud at LW. There are facilities for bulk, general cargo, timber, and tanker vessels. Vessels of up to 3,000 dwt and 92m in length can be accommodated with drafts up to 4.9m at springs and 4m at neaps. It is reported (1995) that vessels of up to 100m in length with bow thrusters can be handled. There are also facilities for yachts and small craft within the inlet.

Aspect.—A lighted range indicates the entrance to the harbor. The fairway channel, which is bordered by training walls, is marked by lighted beacons and perches.

Pilotage.—Pilotage is compulsory but is available during daylight hours only. The vessel should send its ETA 24 hours in advance via the agent.

Vessels should request a pilot 6 hours in advance, contacting the appropriate coast radio station, as follows:

1. Vessels approaching from the S—Belmullet coast radio station.
2. Vessels approaching from the N—Glen Head coast radio station.

The pilot boards off Raghly Point, in the vicinity of Wheat Rock Lighted Buoy.

Anchorage.—Vessels with local knowledge can take anchorage within a reach of the channel, in depths of 5 to 6m, but the tidal currents attain rates up to 5 knots at springs and the holding ground is not good.

Caution.—With strong and prolonged W winds, the water level at Sligo may be raised by 0.3 to 0.6m. Strong and prolonged E winds have an opposite effect.

Donegal Bay

5.12 Donegal Bay (54°31'N., 8°30'W.) is entered between Ballyconnell Point and Malinbeg Head, 19 miles NNW. Mountain ranges rise on the S side of the bay and are prominent from seaward. Slieve League rises on the N shore of the bay, 3 miles E of Malinbeg Head. This peak is 596m high and conspicuous.

This bay offers no shelter for large vessels, but those of moderate draft can be accommodated at the anchorages within Killybegs Harbour and Inver Bay, lying along the N shore. Vessels of light draft can enter Donegal Harbour at HW and under favorable weather conditions, vessels of similar draft can enter Ballyshannon Harbour, on the S shore.

Inishmurray (54°26'N., 8°40'W.) lies on the W side of Donegal Bay, 4.5 miles N of Ballyconnell Point. This island is 19m high and bordered by low cliffs. Bomore, a group of drying rocks, lies on a shoal bank about 1.5 miles NNW of the island. The rocks dry up to 7m near the E end of the shoal.

Dernish Island (54°25'N., 8°30'W.), 28m high, lies close offshore, 7.2 miles NE of Ballyconnell Point. A prominent white tower stands near the NW end of this island. Bullimore, with a least depth of 2.7m, lies about 1.2 miles NW of the W end of the island. This rocky shoal is the outer of several dangerous shoals which lie to seaward of the island.

Mullaghmore Head (54°28'N., 8°27'W.), 60m high, is surmounted by the ruins of a tower and a small drying boat harbor fronts its SE side. During the summer months, anchorage can be taken by small vessels, in depths of 3 to 6m, SE of the head.

A conspicuous television mast, 100m high, stands on the summit of a mountain, 646m high, standing 6.5 miles SSE of Mullaghmore Head.

Aughris Point is located 6.2 miles ENE of Mullaghmore Head. Tullan Strand, a sandy beach, lies 0.5 mile NE of the point and rises to sandhills, 54m high. Kildoney Point, located 2.1 miles NNE of Aughris Point, terminates in sloping cliffs and is noted for its remarkable green color.

Ballyshannon Harbour lies 2.3 miles E of the mouth of the River Erne which is entered 1.4 miles NNE of Aughris Point. This harbor is no longer used by commercial vessels and may only be entered by small yachts.

5.13 Malinbeg Head (54°40'N., 8°48'W.), the NW entrance point of the bay, is fronted by several rocks and surmounted by a ruined tower.

Rathlin O'Birne Island (54°40'N., 8°50'W.), 28m high, lies 1.2 miles W of Malinbeg Head and is fronted on its W side by several rocks. A main light is shown from a prominent tower, 20m high, standing on the W side of this island. A racon is situated at the light.

The Sound, a deep-water channel, leads between the island and the mainland. The navigable fairway is about 0.5 mile wide and vessels are advised to favor the island side.

Carrigan Head, surmounted by a ruined tower, is located 5 miles SE of Malinbeg Head. The coast between is steep-to. Teelin Harbour, a small fishing boat harbor, lies 2 miles E of Carrigan Head.

Fintra Bay lies between Muckros Head, located 1.5 miles SE of Teelin Harbour, and Drumanoo Head, 3.5 miles E. Its entrance is obstructed by several small islets and rocks. A conspicuous white building stands at the head of this bay and a prominent hill, 88m high, rises 1.2 miles SSE of it.

Saint John's Point (54°34'N., 8°27'W.), located 5 miles SE of Muckros Head, is the SW extremity of a prominent tongue of land. A main light is shown from a prominent tower, 14m high, standing on this point.

Bullockmore, a shoal, lies about 1 mile W of the light. It has a least depth of 2.1m and is marked by a lighted buoy. Vessels may pass E or W of this shoal.

McSwynes Bay (54°16'N., 8°50'W.) is entered between Drumanoo Point and Saint John's Point, 2.3 miles SSE. This bay is not suitable for anchorage and should be avoided during the winter. The bottom is rocky and uneven and with W winds, a very heavy swell sets in and breaks with considerable violence along the rocky shores.

Bruckless Harbour, a shallow inlet, lies in the NE part of the bay and is used by small craft. Killybegs Harbour lies in the N part of the bay.

5.14 Killybegs Harbour (54°37'N., 8°26'W.) (World Port Index No. 33930), formed by a natural inlet, is approached through McSwynes Bay and is a major fishing port. This inlet affords security against all winds and sea and will accommodate several vessels of moderate draft at anchor.

Tides—Currents.—The tide rises about 4.1m at springs and 3m at neaps.

Depths—Limitations.—The entrance to the harbor lies between the W side of McSwynes Bay and Rotten Island, located 1.7 miles NE of Drumanoo Head. The harbor is located 1.7 miles NE of Drumanoo Head. The harbor narrows to a width of 180m in the vicinity of Rashenny Point, 0.5 mile N of Rotten Island. Small islets, shoals, and rocks lie adjacent to the fairway and local knowledge is required. The approach to the quays has a least depth of 4.8m. There are extensive facilities for fishing vessels and a main quay, 120m long, with depths of 4.9 to 6.9m alongside. Vessels of up to 140m in length and 7.5m draft can be accommodated at HW.

Aspect.—The town stands on the W side of the harbor, 2 miles within the entrance. A light is shown from a tower, 14m high, standing on Rotten Island. The fairway is marked by buoys and indicated, in places, by lighted ranges.

Pilotage.—Pilotage is not compulsory and there are no permanent pilots, but persons with local knowledge will act as pilots and are available on request. The harbor can be contacted by VHF and persons acting as pilots will board about 0.5 mile S of Rotten Island. Commercial vessels should send an ETA 72, 48, and 24 hours in advance.

Regulations.—Vessels send their ETA 72, 48, and 24 hours in advance, stating their grt, nrt, loa, arrival draft, and departure draft.

Vessels should maintain a continuous listening watch on VHF channel 14.

Anchorage.—Anchorage can be taken by large vessels, in depths of 25 to 30m, W and S of Rotten Island. Anchorage can also be taken in any part of the harbor according to draft.

Caution.—Several fish farms are reported (1993) to lie in the vicinity of the head of McSwynes Bay.

5.15 Inver Bay (54°37'N., 8°19'W.) is entered between Saint John's Point and Doorin Point, 6 miles NE. This bay affords good anchorage off its NW shore and at its head. Strong winds from the SW quadrant cause a considerable sea within the bay, but usually do not continue for any length of time.

Donegal Harbour (54°37'N., 8°14'W.), formed by the estuary of the River Eske, lies at the head of Donegal Bay and is approached between Doorin Point and Rossnowlough Point, 3 miles SE. It is entered via a channel which winds between extensive sandbanks and small islets. Local knowledge is required.

The harbor is suitable for only small craft and small shallow-draft vessels. The tides rise about 3.4m at springs and 2.4m at neaps. There are two quays in the harbor which have dredged depths of up to 0.3m and depths of 2.3 to 3.7m alongside at HWS. Anchorage may be taken in depths of up to 9m off the entrance to the harbor.

Donegal Bay to Lough Swilly

5.16 Malin More Head (54°42'N., 8°47'W.), located 2 miles N of Malinbeg Head, is conspicuous and easily identified. The coast between is bordered by cliffs, 60 to 90m high.

Dawros Head, marked by a light, is located on the N side of Loughros More Bay, 11.5 miles NE of Malin More Head. The coast between is indented and bordered by high cliffs. The shore is fronted by sunken ledges, rocks, and small islets.

Glen Head, located 2.5 miles NE of Malin More Head, is formed by a prominent hill, 225m high, and surmounted by a ruined tower. Slievetooley, 512m high, stands 4.5 miles S of Dawros Head. This peak has steep N and W faces and is conspicuous from seaward.

Boylagh Bay (54°55'N., 8°30'W.) lies between Dawros Head and the SW extremity of Aran Island, 9 miles N. This bay should be avoided as it is encumbered by numerous sunken rocks which break with violence at times.

Roaninish, 5m high, is surrounded by a sunken ledge. This small islet lies in the approach to the S part of the bay, 2.5 miles NNE of Dawros Head. Shoals, with depths of less than 10m, lie up to 2 miles NW and NE of this islet.

Dunmore Head is located 2.7 miles ENE of Dawros Head and Dunmore Hill, 127m high, stands close E of it. Inishkeel, an islet, lies close offshore, 1.2 miles E of Dunmore Head. This islet is 16m high and a ruined church stands near its E end. Church Pool lies SE of the islet and affords anchorage to small vessels in a depth of 6m.

Aran Island (54°59'N., 8°31'W.) rises to a summit, 225m high, at the center. Its W and NE sides and part of its S side are bordered by vertical cliffs indented by fissures and caves. A main light (Aranmore) is shown from a prominent tower, 23m

high, standing on Rinrawros Point, the NW extremity of the island.

The mainland to the E and SE of Aran Island is fronted by numerous islets and shoals. Several narrow and shallow channels lead between these dangers and are used by small craft with local knowledge. Burtonport, a small fishing and resort village, stands on the mainland 1.7 miles ENE of the SE extremity of Aran Island. It is approached through a channel with a dredged depth of 2m. Pilotage is available and is recommended for vessels without local knowledge.

Large vessels should give the waters fronting the coast between Dawros Head and Aran Island a wide berth.

5.17 Bloody Foreland (55°10'N., 8°17'W.), the NW extremity of Ireland, is located 12 miles NE of Aran Island and marked by a light. The coast between is barren, sandy, and fronted by several off-lying islands and dangers which should only be approached with great caution, particularly at night or in hazy weather.

Bloody Foreland consists of a low cliff fronted by several ledges. This point rises to Bloody Foreland Hill, 312m high, which stands 1.2 miles inland and is very conspicuous. The summit of this hill is surmounted by a prominent pile of stones.

Mount Errigal, 749m high, stands 9.5 miles SE of Bloody Foreland and has a distinctive pyramidal peak. Mount Muckish, 667m high, stands 10 miles ESE of Bloody Foreland and has a summit resembling the roof of a barn.

The Stag (55°04'N., 8°29'W.), consisting of three wedged-shaped rocks, lies 3.8 miles NE of the N extremity of Aran Island. It is 9m high and the outermost danger in this vicinity. Owey Island, 100m high, lies 1.5 miles SE of The Stag. Cruit Island lies between Owey Island and the mainland shore.

Gola Island lies 5 miles SW of Bloody Foreland and is the largest island in this vicinity. It is 69m high and bordered by vertical cliffs on the W and NW sides. A sandy beach lies along its E side. Bullogconnell Shoals, which dry in places, extend up to 1.5 miles NW of Gola Island.

Inishsirr, fringed by drying flats, lies 1.6 miles NNE of Gola Island. A light is shown from the NW extremity of this island.

Several narrow and shallow channels lead through the shoals and islands fronting this section of the coast. Only small vessels with local knowledge should attempt to enter them.

5.18 Peninsula Point (55°10'N., 8°09'W.), located 4.7 miles E of Bloody Foreland, is the N extremity of a remarkable bare and sandy peninsula which is 26m high. A group of three islands lies on foul ground to the N of the point. Inishbeg, 21m high, lies 2.5 miles NNW of the point and is the N and outer island.

Inishbofin Bay is entered to the SW of the group of islands. It has depths of 12 to 16m in the entrance which decrease rapidly to drying flats at the head. During the summer, this bay provides temporary anchorage to small vessels in depths of 4 to 7m, but is exposed and subject to a heavy W swell.

Tory Island (55°16'N., 8°13'W.), centered 6.7 miles NNW of Peninsula Point, is bleak and desolate in appearance. The N side of this island consists of conspicuous cliffs, up to 82m high, and the ground sloping SW from them gives it a wedge-like appearance when viewed from the NW. The island usually



Photograph Courtesy of the Commissioners of Irish Lights

Tory Island Light

appears as a low cluster of rocks, but is sometimes not easily identified when in line with the high hills on the mainland. Some of the small bights indenting the N and S sides of the island offer temporary shelter from the winds. A main light is shown from a tower, 27m high, standing on the NW side of the island. A racon is situated at the tower.

Tory Sound lies between Inishbeg and Tory Island. The fairway of this channel has a least depth of 18.6m and general depths of 20 to 30m.

Ballyness Harbour (55°09'N., 8°07'W.) is entered close E of Peninsula Point. This inlet mostly dries and is fronted by a bar which also dries at times. It is only used by yachts and small craft.

Templebreaga Head is located 5.2 miles NE of Peninsula Point and from the NE, bears a considerable resemblance to the profile of a man's face. McSwyne's Gun, which can be heard at times up to a distance of 8 miles, is located 1.5 miles S of Templebreaga Head. It is formed by a blowhole fissure in the cliffs through which the sea is sometimes forced. This action produces a loud report resembling a thunder clap rather than the sound of a gun.

Tramore Bay, entered 2 miles S of Templebreaga Head, is exposed and little used except as a temporary anchorage during offshore winds.

Horn Head (55°14'N., 7°59'W.) is the N extremity of a rugged and bold peninsula which forms the W side of the entrance to Sheep Haven. This point is bordered on its E side by sheer cliffs, 183m high, which assume a remarkable horn-like appearance at the extremity of the peninsula.

The tidal currents off this point attain rates of up to 2 knots at springs. When the wind and current are in opposition, a turbulent sea may be raised in this area.

5.19 Sheep Haven (55°12'N., 7°54'W.) is entered between Horn Head and Rhinnafaghla Point, the NW extremity of Rosguill Peninsula, 4 miles E. This bay is exposed to N and NE winds and provides no safe shelter for large vessels. Small craft, provided the swell is not too great, can sometimes find temporary anchorage within the bay.

Duncap Head is located 1.6 miles SE of Horn Head. Croaghnmaddy Hill, the highest part of the peninsula of which Horn Head is the N extremity, stands 0.5 mile SW of the point and is 252m high.

Melmore Head (55°15'N., 7°47'W.), located 7.1 miles ENE of Horn Head, is surmounted by a prominent ruined tower.

The outer dangers along this part of the coast include Frenchman's Rock, which dries, and Straughan Shoals, a shallow patch, lying about 1 mile W and 0.6 mile WNW, respectively, of Melmore Head.

Mulroy Bay (55°15'N., 7°46'W.) is entered between Melmore Head and Ballyhoorisky Point, 1 mile E. This bay forms the entrance to a narrow and tortuous channel which leads 8 miles in a general SSE direction to Broad Water, an area of sheltered water.

The bay is open to the N and provides no safe anchorage with N winds. The exposed and unmarked bar leading into the bay is subject to change and should never be attempted by vessels without local knowledge, except in an emergency. Pilots can be obtained and are usually embarked off Lough Swilly by prior request via a coast radio station. Although not compulsory, pilotage is essential to and from the bar due to the total absence of navigational aids and the numerous dangers. Only small craft can navigate the intricate and shallow channels which lead into Broad Water.

5.20 Limeburner Rock (55°18'N., 7°48'W.), lying 2.6 miles N of Melmore Head, is so named because of the resemblance of the foam that it throws up to the smoke of a lime kiln. It has a least depth of 2m and consists of two rocky heads. During heavy weather, this danger breaks, especially when the current is opposed to the prevailing W winds. Vessels may pass either side of this rock which is marked on the N side by a lighted buoy.

Fanad Head (55°17'N., 7°38'W.), low and rocky, is located 4.5 miles ENE of Ballyhoorisky Point. The coast between is indented by several sandy bays and backed by undulating hills. During bad weather, vessels should give this section of coast a wide berth as the sea breaks heavily on the reefs which extend as far as 0.8 mile offshore.

A main light is shown from a prominent tower, 22m high, standing on Fanad Head.

Lough Swilly

5.21 Lough Swilly (55°14'N., 7°34'W.) is entered between Fanad Head and Dunaff Head, 3.7 miles E. It is a spacious and narrow inlet which extends to a tidal head near the town of Letterkenny, 22 miles SSW. The inlet can provide sheltered anchorage for all but the largest vessels and is accessible at all stages of the tide. It is the principal harbor of refuge for vessels rounding the N coast of Ireland. The lough may be navigated by vessels of all classes to about 1 mile above Rathmullan, 13 miles within the entrance, but no safe anchorage is provided until Buncrana Bay is reached, 10 miles within the entrance.

Both sides of the lough are bordered by hills, 90 to 305m high, which are mostly bare at the entrance, but more fertile and cultivated farther to the S.

Crockdonnelly, 151m high, and Murren Hill, surmounted by a conspicuous radio mast, rise 1.2 miles SSW and 3 miles SSW, respectively, of Fanad Head. Dunaff Head, at the E side of the entrance, is bordered by sheer cliffs which are 180m high on the N side and 45 to 120m high on the W and S sides. The summit of the head, which is 219m high, is somewhat rounded and falls in a very abrupt slope to the bordering cliffs.

Raghtin More, 501m high, stands 2.5 miles SE of Dunaff Head and its prominent summit appears from the N to have a flat top.

West side.—A group of rocks, marked by a lighted buoy, lie about 1.7 miles SSE of Fanad Head and form the principal danger in the entrance channel. A spit, with depths of 5 to 18m, extends up to about 0.5 mile N from Fanad Head and breaks during heavy gales.

Ballymastocker Bay is entered between Portsalon, located 4.1 miles S of Fanad Head, and Saldanha Head, 1.5 miles SE. There are depths of 6 to 8m in the entrance of this bay which decrease gradually to a drying sand at the head. A large hotel, with a tower at one end, stands at Portsalon and is fronted by a pier. This bay affords convenient anchorage for small vessels, but is exposed to the swell which rolls into the lough. Large vessels should approach the shore with caution as depths of less than 9m extend up to over 0.8 mile seaward.

Saldanha Head, the S entrance point of the bay, is formed by the NE extremity of Knockalla, a mountain, which rises 2.5 miles SW and is 362m high. Knockalla Point, located 0.8 mile

SE of Saldanha Head, can be identified by a fort and a tower which stand close N of it.

Scraggy Bay, entered close S of Knockalla Point, is fronted by Glenvar Spit, the outer tail of a shoal, which has a least depth of 6m and extends 1 mile SE across the entrance. Small vessels can anchor within this bay in a depth of 5m.

Mackamish Point, surmounted by a conspicuous tower, is located 2.3 miles SE of Scraggy Bay. The coast between is clifly and bordered by a rocky shore.

Provincial Bank, with depths of 7 to 9m, lies between 0.8 mile N and 1 mile NW of Mackamish Point. Bull Rock, which dries, lies close SW of the bank. Saltpans Bank, with depths of less than 10m, fronts the shore and extends 2.5 miles SSW from about 1 mile ESE of Mackamish Point. It is marked by buoys and closes the coast in the vicinity of Rathmullan.

East side.—Lenan Head, located 2 miles S of Dunaff Head, terminates in a high cliff at its N side and provides partial shelter to Lenan Bay which is entered close S of it. Anchorage can be taken within this bay in a depth of 7m, sand, but a swell is often experienced.

Dunree Head is located 3 miles SSW of Lenan Head. This point is 94m high and a light is shown from a structure standing half way up the cliff. A prominent white streak is located on the cliff face close below the light. Between Dunree Head and Neds Point, 4 miles SE, the coast is bordered by rocks and shoals which extend up to 0.5 mile seaward and are known collectively as Linsfort Shoal. Colpagh Bank, with general depths of 1 to 3m and two drying rocks at its center, lies midway between Dunree Head and Neds Point and is marked by a buoy. White Strand Rocks, a cluster of sunken dangers, lies about 0.7 mile NW of Neds Point and is also marked by a buoy. A wreck, with a least depth of 10.9m, lies about 0.5 mile WSW of Neds Point.

Dunree Bay is entered close SE of Dunree Head. Dunree Bar, lying at the N end of Linsfort Shoal, breaks heavily when the strong ebb current sets out of Dunree Bay and meets the swell setting into the lough. At such times, the W shore should be favored where the depths are greater and the channel free from breakers.

Buncrana Bay, entered close S of Neds Point, provides good anchorage in its outer part during the summer months, but is dangerous with NW winds. Anchorage can be taken by large vessels in the outer part of this bay in a depth of 12m, mud, about 0.5 mile SW of Neds Point.

Inch Island, lying 2.7 miles SSW of Buncrana Bay, is connected to the E side of the lough by two embankments. It is surrounded by flats which are intersected by several shallow channels. Inch Flats, which dry, extend 1.2 miles N from the N side of this island and terminate at Inch Spit which is awash. This area of flats is marked by buoys.

5.22 Rathmullan (55°06'N., 7°32'W.) (World Port Index No. 33880), a village with an old fort, stands on the W side of the lough. The roadstead, which lies off the village and W of Inch Island, provides a more sheltered anchorage than Buncrana Bay. During NW gales, a high sea may be experienced in the latter bay, but smooth water will be encountered in the roadstead. A pier, with a depth of 7m alongside, fronts the village. Anchorage can be taken in depths of 12 to 20m within the roadstead.

The fairway of the lough continues S with depths of more than 9m to Ballylin Point, 3.2 miles above Rathmullan. Letterkenny Channel is then entered and leads 11 miles to the head. This channel is tortuous, narrow, and used only by small craft at HW. Local knowledge is required.

Tides—Currents.—The tides at Rathmullan rise about 4.3m at springs and 3.2m at neaps.

In the entrance to the lough, the tidal currents are weak. Farther in, the currents gradually gain strength and off Rathmullan, the flood attains a rate of 1.3 knots at springs and the ebb a rate of 1.7 knots. Both of these currents appear to form eddies off the salient points within the lough.

Pilotage.—Pilots for Lough Swilly are not available, but persons with local knowledge may be requested in advance through Rathmullan. Small vessels should not proceed above Rathmullan without local knowledge.

Caution.—Fish farms lie along the shores of Lough Swilly.

Drift nets may be encountered in the approaches to the lough during January, February, May, and June. During the summer, salmon nets may also be encountered within the lough.

Numerous yachts and small craft may be encountered within the lough during the summer months.

Lough Swilly To Malin Head

5.23 Trawbreaga Bay (55°20'N., 7°25'W.) lies between Dunaff Head and Malin Head, 6.7 miles NE. It is exposed to the prevailing winds and sea and is seldom used except as a

temporary anchorage under favorable conditions. The currents in this bay are weak, having rates of 0.5 knot at springs, but the heavy swells cause an inward set.

Glashedy Island lies 1 mile offshore, 4.5 miles ENE of Dunaff Head. It is 36m high and surrounded by dangerous rocks and breakers. Glashedy Sound leads between the island and the coast. It has depths of 7 to 9m in the fairway, but should not be attempted by vessels without local knowledge.

The S side of the bay is generally low, except for Binnion which rises abruptly to a summit, 249m high, 3.5 miles E of Dunaff Head.

Tullagh Point is located 2 miles ENE of Dunaff Head. Rockstown Bay and Tullagh Bay are entered on the W and E sides, respectively, of this point. These bays can be used as temporary anchorages during offshore winds, but both are small and encumbered by several dangers.

Trawbreaga Lough, the SE extension of Trawbreaga Bay, has depths of 7 to 10m in the approach, but shoals rapidly to drying flats within the entrance. It is only used by small vessels with local knowledge. A bar, with a depth of 0.6m, obstructs the entrance and is often impassable due to breakers. The tidal currents at the entrance to this lough attain rates of 5 knots at springs.

White Strand Bay, lying 1.6 miles SE of Malin Head, affords temporary anchorage in depths of 10 to 15m during E winds.

Caution.—Submarines exercise frequently, both surfaced and submerged, in the waters lying N of Malin Head.